

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides an automatic authentication method and system in a print process, which can obviate the need for user's input operations of the user ID and password and can improve security since authentication is automatically done based on print information embedded in a file or information from an application program without any user's input.

In a print process that requires user authentication, a printer driver extracts information related to an application and/or a document for the print process as attribute information, and user authentication is made by comparing the attribute information with information stored in a user registration information database of a server. If user authentication has succeeded, the printer driver controls a printer to print, and the server manages and stores accounting information and the like for respective departments in a department management information database.